

ACTION UPDATE

February 2018

FAIRBANKS AREA

BOROUGH SEEKING COMMENT ON SHOOTING AT TANANA LAKES

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is seeking public input on whether people should be able to shoot guns in the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area outside of the public shooting range.

While the borough has already held a couple of public meetings regarding this issue, it is still collecting public comments through Friday, February 16, at 5pm. An online survey will also remain active until that time. The recreation area has several trails so it's important for all trail users of the area to speak up.

- Here is the link to the survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/TLRAQuack
- Comments can be made by coming in to the Parks and Recreation office or by emailing parks@fnsb.us

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner did a story on one of the public meetings and it includes some background on the issues. See the story here: <http://tinyurl.com/yd5mxy19>

BORO PARKS AND REC HOLDING WINTER TRAILS CHALLENGE

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks And Recreation Department is hosting the second annual Winter Trails Challenge. The ongoing event began in December and is free and open to anyone. Participants have until April 15 to find at least 10 Trails Challenge signs hidden around local trail systems and share their photos with each sign.

This winter's challenge features trails at local recreation areas including Birch Hill, Tanana Lakes, Chena Lake, Isberg Rec Area, Skyline Ridge Park and more. Anyone can participate by finding the Trails Challenge signs and sharing their photos on social media using the hashtag "#fnsbtrails" or by emailing their photos to parks@fnsb.us. Finishers will receive the Trailblazer Award and be entered in a prize drawing. Prize sponsors include Bucko's Coffee, REI Fairbanks And Trax Outdoor Center.

For more information on the trails in this year's challenge, visit the borough Parks And Recreation Facebook page or webpage at www.fnsb.us/pr or call the trails coordinator at 459-7401.

(Photo: Trails Coordinator Bryant Wright from 2017 Winter Trails Challenge.)



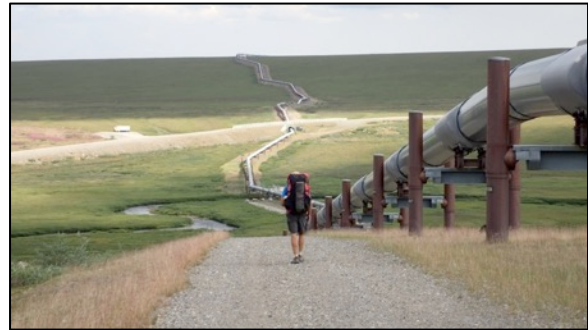
BORO TRAILS COMMISSION SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR VACANCIES

The FNSB Parks and Recreation Department is seeking applicants to fill two vacancies on the Trails Advisory Commission. The commission is particularly interesting in people interested in snowmachine and equestrian trail use. Also, the commission lacks sufficient representation of the North Pole and Salcha areas. Anyone who would be willing to serve or would like to know more should contact Bryant Wright, FNSB Trails Coordinator (BWright@fnsb.us; 907/459-7401)

INTERIORWIDE/STATEWIDE

PROJECT UPDATE FROM THE TRANS-ALASKA TRAIL PROJECT

Trans-Alaska Trail seeks to establish a world-class destination long trail that celebrates the living history of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the incredible lands it traverses. The project proposes to expand and promote permit-controlled access to the “service pad,” a gravel track that follows the pipeline from Valdez to Prudhoe Bay. More information is available at the website: aktrail.org.



The project team is currently revising a draft management plan that addresses concerns about trail design, costs, and operation of a 66-mile Chugach Traverse following the pipeline corridor out of Valdez. A route analysis for this proposed pilot segment is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/yc2b6ubf>

Contact transalaskatrail@gmail.com for further information.

(From Nate Sievert; photo of Ned Rozell on 2017 thru-hike of Alaska Trans-Alaska Pipeline by Eric Troyer)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2018 STATEWIDE TRAILS CONFERENCE

The Alaska Trails 2018 Statewide Trails Conference will be held April 26-28 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

We will soon be posting information to our website, such as the agenda, keynote speakers, breakout descriptions, and registration information. The format will be similar to last year. There will be door prizes, vendor tables, poster sessions, the popular Trail Olympics, and a pre-conference session on Trail Design and Layout with Mike Shields (details to be determined).



If you've had success with a project or got a great idea you want to share, please consider creating a display for the poster session.

Displays don't have to be complicated, but they should educate and spur discussion and more ideas.

Vendors, please contact us soon to reserve your table. We have a limited number of tables and they are in a prime spot—right next to the lunch buffet. (Contact information in the masthead.)

Hope to see you at the conference. Please email or call to share any ideas for topics or presentations that you would like to see. To see what was presented last year, see:

<http://www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference.html>

Updates on the 2018 conference will be posted on our Facebook Event page at :

<https://www.facebook.com/events/358363531293740/>

(Trail Olympics photo from 2017 by Steve Cleary)

STATE PARKS POSITIONS INCLUDE TRAIL DUTIES

Alaska State Parks is looking for seasonal employees and volunteers. Positions include trail crew and

backcountry ranger assistant. Applicants must be at least 18 years old.

- For more information on the volunteer program: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>
- For more information on Alaska State Parks seasonal jobs see: <http://tinyurl.com/7mog8q3>

OUTGOING TRAIL LOVER NEEDED FOR TRAIL TECHNICIAN POSITION

Alaska Trails is seeking a Trails Technician who loves working with people and shares our commitment to trail stewardship and volunteerism. This new position will direct trail projects done by volunteers through the Alaska Trail Stewards program and paid youth crews through the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program. The Trails Technician will also help train volunteers, work with land managers to set up and conduct trail maintenance projects and work with other partners to increase the reach and effectiveness of the Alaska Trail Stewards program.

Full job posting and how to apply here: <http://tinyurl.com/y9hjocx6>

USE "PICK. CLICK. GIVE." TO DONATE TO ALASKA TRAILS



Alaska Trails is included in the Permanent Fund Dividend's "Pick. Click. Give" charitable contributions program. It's a secure and easy way to make a donation. When you file for your PFD online, you will be given an opportunity to donate using money from your PFD. If you do, please remember Alaska Trails.

If you use "Pick. Click. Give" you will be able to check a box that authorizes the state to send your name, contact information and the amount you give when it sends contributions to an organization. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it's you making the gift.

For more information on "Pick. Click. Give" see: www.pickclickgive.org

To go directly to the Alaska Trails “Pick. Click. Give.” page:
<http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails>

RIVER FORECAST SITE KEEPS TRACK OF SNOW DEPTH

The National Weather Service’s River Forecast Center has a website that tracks snow depths at many locations across the state. In the spring, summer, and fall, the site also tracks several things regarding rivers, including how breakup is going and what river conditions are like. See the snow depth page for the website at: http://www.weather.gov/aprfc/Snow_Depth

INTERIORWIDE LINK

- Delta Junction Trail Association’s Walk Of Lights, Sat., Feb 3: <http://tinyurl.com/y87mettg>
- Despite rough spots, snowmachine conditions good in Interior: <http://tinyurl.com/y8jx6uog>
- Warm weather, abundant rodents make for happy raptors: <http://tinyurl.com/y8tmb3wu>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Eagle Watch (state parks newsletter):
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>
- Intro to fat biking: Tires churning, legs burning, miles away from my comfort zone:
<http://tinyurl.com/y7je94lt>
- Winter road trip: Three places to ski along the Parks Highway: <http://tinyurl.com/y73lg6hy>
- Sturgeon says hovercraft case has national importance: <http://tinyurl.com/y7evomw5>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Nordic skates plus a frozen creek equals pure bliss: <http://tinyurl.com/ybv6tlxl>
- APD gains traction on crime with new bikes: <http://tinyurl.com/yb4wpftj>
- Government Peak adds more cross country trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yayje2be>
- Kodiak Island Trails Network newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/yd2ay79t>

SOUTHEAST LINK

- Trail Mix is hiring for the 2018 season: <http://tinyurl.com/y76xw78b>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Outdoor Explorer: Champion skiers & avalanche forecasting: <http://tinyurl.com/ya4o7gcu>
- States Where Most People Walk Or Bike To Work (Alaska ranks #1!):
<http://tinyurl.com/y82457hc>
- Take the kids outside (and leave the phones inside): <http://tinyurl.com/y79mcqvc>
- Cold facts: You’ll be warmer if you relax rather than resist: <http://tinyurl.com/y957f6rz>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

UPDATED FOREST SERVICE TRAIL GUIDEBOOK NOW AVAILABLE



We are happy to announce that the Forest Service's recently updated Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) guidebook is now available as an official publication and in downloadable electronic format for use by Forest Service staff, as well as by other agencies and entities.

This publication provides comprehensive guidance and instructions for applying Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives, concepts originally developed by the Forest Service and since adopted by other Federal and State agencies and partners in the development of trail prescriptions and effective trail management. This recently published version includes the original 2008 content, along with updated photos and formatting. These materials, along with reference and instructional materials, can be accessed via the new USDA Forest Service Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives webpage:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8mam8p8>

(From email by Jaime Schmidt, National Trail Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service)

SUSTAINABLE TRAILS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MARCH

Some of the world's foremost trail experts will gather in West Virginia this spring to present hands-on instruction in trail construction, design, maintenance, development and management. The annual conference of the Professional Trail Builder's Association features multi-day workshops, classes, equipment, and construction demonstrations to provide attendees with practical tools to bring great trails to life. The core conference is March 26-28, 2018, with multi-day workshops before and after. More information may be obtained at <http://www.trailbuilders.org/training/sustainable-trails-conference-stonewall-2018>.

(From Jon Underwood)

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html

STUDIES/REPORTS

- How Does Nature Impact Our Wellbeing?: <http://tinyurl.com/jexyoqr>
- How Going Outside Improves Our Mood and Health Even in Winter: <http://tinyurl.com/y8sacps8>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Top Hikes Near Asheville, N.C.: <https://ashevilletrails.com/category/hiking-trails-near-asheville/>
- Ten Trails near Tacoma to Inspire a Year of Hiking and Getting Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/ycyd6sbx>
- Washington Trails Association's interactive trail finder map: <http://www.wta.org/go-outside/map>
- Washington Trails Association's Trailblazer App for Android and iPhone: <http://tinyurl.com/yd7v43o5>
- 5 Scenic Coastal Bike Trails in the Bay Area: <http://tinyurl.com/yatf8ctg>

ADVOCACY/VOLUNTEER

- 10 Threatened Hiking Trails That Need Your Help: <http://tinyurl.com/y9laz7ca>

GRANTS

- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1, Sept 1): <http://tinyurl.com/zcz8u7a>

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- For the latest American Trails news: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

OPINION

- Why You Should Care About Public Lands: <https://www.backpacker.com/stories/this-land-is-your-land>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- The US National Trails System celebrates 50 years of the outdoors in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y9rhbey8>
- Hiking 60 miles in 5 days to photograph 11 trails (near Phoenix): <http://tinyurl.com/y8hys8w9>
- Fat-Bike Grooming in Michigan (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj4j09nZbjA>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Interior Department plans to move thousands of workers in its biggest reorganization ever: <http://tinyurl.com/y7nfsc6>
- How To Keep Your Hands Warm: <http://tinyurl.com/y7q68wh7>
- Secretary Zinke Announces Changes in National Park Service Leadership: <http://tinyurl.com/ybqjxomh>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Long-distance hiking trails from around the world to tackle in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y8aynxuv>
 - The Best Hiking Trails in the Picos de Europa, Spain: <http://tinyurl.com/ya3x8s7f>
 - Four of South Africa's Highest 4x4 Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y8m3vyoe>
 - Winter Walk Day (Canada): <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/winter-walk-day/>
 - Turning Australia's old rails into new trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9bl3wj8>
 - Hidden Hong Kong: From nature trails to traditional eateries: <http://tinyurl.com/y949dj3e>
 - Stairway to heaven: hiking ancient pilgrimage trails in southern Japan: <http://tinyurl.com/y8n3udz8>
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Interior Trails Quarterly is a free email newsletter that comes out four times a year: March, June, September, and December. ITQ Action Updates come out once a month in between regular editions of the ITQ. Both are written and distributed by Eric Troyer, a lifelong Alaskan and trail user. To submit items, get on or off the mailing list, report problems, or anything else email Eric at fbxtrails@gmail.com. Note: submissions may also be used in the statewide Alaska Trails newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: Interior Trails Quarterly and ITQ Action Updates are not products of any organization. However, I am a board member of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, a member of several Interior trail user groups, and a member of Alaska Trails and editor of its newsletter.